

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/AND:DKEMP
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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039500

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, PE, EC

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES ECUADOREAN AMAZON
ACCESS WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR GARCIA BEDOYA MET
WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUSHNELL ON FEBRUARY 13 TO
REGISTER PERU'S CONCERN OVER WHAT IT CONSIDERS ECUADOR'S
RECENT STRIDENT INSISTENCE ON SOVEREIGN ACCESS TO THE AMAZON
RIVER, ITS NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO
NATIONS AND A POSSIBLE MODERATING U.S. APPROACH TO ECUADOR
IN ITS CAPACITY AS A GUARANTOR OF THE RIO PROTOCOL OF 1942.
PERUVIAN MISSION DEPUTY, IGOR VELASQUEZ, AND DESK OFFICER
KEMP WERE PRESENT. END SUMMARY.

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2. PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR CARLOS GARCIA BEDOYA MET WITH DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUSHNELL AT THE FORMER'S REQUEST ON
AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 13 TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S
CONSTERNATION OVER A FEBRUARY 9 ADDRESS BY ECUADOREAN
FOREIGN MINISTER AYALA IN WHICH THE ECUADOREAN INSISTED ON
HIS COUNTRY'S RIGHT TO A SOVEREIGN ACCESS TO THE AMAZON
RIVER. GARCIA BEDOYA, AFTER NOTING THAT PERU HAD STRIVEN

HARD OVER THE PAST EIGHT OR NINE YEARS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ECUADOR AND HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ACHIEVING 'EXCELLENT, TIES, MENTIONED RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS AND THE AYALA SPEECH DEMANDING SOVEREIGN ACCESS AS EXTREMELY DISTURBING

DEVELOPMENTS. HE ARGUED THAT IF ECUADOR INSISTS ON STRIDENTLY PURSUING SOVEREIGN ACCESS - A PREMISE WHICH THE GOP CANNOT ACCEPT - IT WILL DESTROY THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, PREVENT COOPERATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMAZONIAN REGION, AND BLOCK FURTHER DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE NEIGHBORS.

3. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM BUSHNELL CONCERNING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PERU AND ECUADOR FOLLOWING PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTERVENTION IN SEPTEMBER OF LAST YEAR, GARCIA BEDOYA NOTED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS SUBSEQUENTLY MET AT THE UNITED NATIONS, HOLDING DISCUSSIONS IN A POSITIVE SPIRIT. HOWEVER, ECUADOR'S RECENT INSISTENCE ON SOVEREIGN ACCESS IS UNACCEPTABLE TO PERU WHICH MAINTAINS THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN ONLY BE REACHED WITHIN THE JURIDICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE RIO PROTOCOL OF 1942. ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS DURING THE CONVERSATION, AMBASSADOR GARCIA BEDOYA STRESSED THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES AS A GUARANTOR OF THE PROTOCOL AND SUGGESTED THAT A WORD FROM THE U.S. TO ECUADOR COULD PREVENT A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN THE SITUATION AND HELP RENEW THE DIALOGUE. HE PRESENTED CONFIDENTIAL

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BUSHNELL WITH COPIES OF THE PERUVIAN COMMUNIQUE OF FEB 11 REACTING TO AYALA'S SPEECH AS WELL AS FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE'S FEB 6 COMMENTS TO THE MAGAZINE OIGA ON THE SUBJECT OF AMAZONIAN ACCESS. BUSHNELL SAID THESE WOULD BE CAREFULLY STUDIED WITH A VIEW TOWARD DETERMINING AN APPROACH THE U.S. MIGHT MAKE TO ECUADOR TO ENCOURAGE THE CONTINUATION OF A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE FREE FROM PROVOCATIVE RHETORIC. HE NOTED THAT A PUBLIC STANCE COULD ONLY BE TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OTHER PROTOCOL GUARANTORS.

4. TO BUSHNELL'S SUGGESTION THAT THE ECUADOREAN POSITION MIGHT BE A RESULT OF ELECTORAL POSTURING, GARCIA BEDOYA EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT THE BORDER PROBLEM COULD BECOME AN ELECTORAL ISSUE IN PERU, ALSO.

5. BOTH DURING THE MEETING AND IN FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION WITH DESK OFFICER KEMP, GARCIA BEDOYA EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ECUADOR MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETING FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR THE DIALOGUE - ESPECIALLY THAT OF THE U.S. AND VENEZUELA - AND, IN SO DOING MIGHT BECOME MORE INTRANSIGENT AND MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO FRUSTRATION. GARCIA BEDOYA WAS NOT

SPECIFIC CONCERNING WHAT GOP APPROACHES, IF ANY, HAVE BEEN
MADE TO OTHER PROTOCOL GUARANTORS. VANCE

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